

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Christian J. Miele, Deputy Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor



July 2021

Dear Law Enforcement Training Professional:

We are pleased to provide you with the enclosed curriculum, Law Enforcement and People with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Developmental Disabilities, to train law enforcement and first responders on how to appropriately and effectively interact with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

This curriculum, which has been approved by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions and meets the entry-level training objectives 09.15-9.21, was recently revised by the Ethan Saylor Alliance Steering Committee. The Ethan Saylor Alliance was formed after the tragic death of Ethan during an incident involving police in 2013. A broad group of stakeholders including law enforcement, advocates, people with disabilities, families, state agencies, community members and members of Ethan Saylor's family, came together to provide increased training for members of law enforcement and other public service entities on specific needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We find that that it is imperative for self-advocates to have meaningful roles as educators in the implementation of this curriculum. The importance of self-advocates as trainers, particularly for the role-plays and scenario-based learning opportunities, cannot be overstated and has led to significant positive impact among training participants.

Thank you for using this curriculum in your agency to better prepare first responders for encounters with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your efforts will help make such interactions more effective and safer for all involved.

If you have any questions or concerns about the curriculum, please contact Jennifer Eastman, Director of Community Living Policy, at jennifer.eastman@maryland.gov or 410-767-7901.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary